



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 22, 2008

H.R. 3490
Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 11, 2008*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3490 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 3490 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3490 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3490 would transfer 66 acres of land, currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to be held in trust for the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria in California. According to information from the tribe, those lands would be used primarily for a cultural center and for housing and agricultural needs. The bill also would extend the boundaries of the tribe's reservation to include the conveyed BLM lands and other tribal-owned lands, provided that BLM completes a survey of certain land and that other conditions specified in the bill are met. Based on information from BIA and BLM, we estimate that federal spending to transfer the lands and complete a survey would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

According to the Department of the Interior, the BLM lands currently generate no receipts from mineral leasing or other activities and are not expected to do so during the next 10 years. Therefore, CBO estimates that conveying the land would not affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending).

On April 25, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3490 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 17, 2008. The House and Senate versions of the legislation are similar, and our cost estimates are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Leigh Angres. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.